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School Facilities Meeting Discussion Summary
Dec. 12, East Side High School

Below is a summary of main points raised by those in attendance:

- 1) The size of the schools. There was a concern that the schools were being planned for too many children, and that 2 small facilities would be better than one large one, and in some cases may actually serve the communities needs better. (Raised in context of discussion of Lafayette St. School site).
- 2) New site suggested for Lafayette St. School. Current site of the Edison Parking Lot on Hamilton St.
- 3) Concern about Lafayette (and Oliver, and others) being historic and beautiful buildings. The District said they have begun a historic preservation assessment with the NJ Historic Society, which will begin in January and end in the summer.
- 4) Concern about using Ann St. as a swing school while others are built. An alternative is that the East Side Elementary School be used. This is because Ann St.'s playground currently provides recreation for the entire neighborhood in that area, and the community cannot afford its loss.
- 5) The use of Murphy Varnish for a school. The state is balking at this because of environmental issues, but the District is still pushing it.
- 6) East Side would re-use the Ballantine buildings.
- 7) The district likes the idea of pocket parks, and would be supportive of efforts to get these near schools, and throughout the neighborhood. The District is working with Greater Newark Conservancy on parks near schools in other parts of the city.
- 8) The community needs committees for each school for "community visioning process" to design the appropriate schools and will work in partnership with the community. The district supports Land for Learnings Principles (handed out at meeting, blue sheet).
- 9) If people have alternative sites to suggest, they should still do so.
- 10) An alternative and available block was suggested for South St. School on South St. from Pacific going toward Railroad Ave. (Block 1162?). It is a larger piece than what the District currently has. If this was used for South St., then Oliver could switch to the Murphy Varnish, 922, 929 site. *This should be checked out.*
- 11) The site for East Side includes the corner (St. Charles & Ferry St.) which had been threatened by a McDonald's Development, and is now threatened by a Quick Chex.

- 12) The East Side High School. The state is negotiating with the owner.
- 13) Hawkins St. sites – the site across from the high school is not a good one because the elementary children should not be so close to the high school.
- 14) The number 1 alternative on Chapel St. is still available. Expansion on the same block would involve knocking down homes. Hawkins St. parents were urged by the District to form a group to work on it.
- 15) Special sound proofing for protection from airplane noise in schools underneath plane routes.
- 16) Truck routes should also be considered. District says they were looked at.
- 17) Concern about the Oliver St. School site. The proposed site currently has a working factory and a gym, used by the community. Across the street there is a partial vacant lot. The proposed sites for both South & Oliver are extremely close together. Maybe there is a different way to think about it – maybe using available block on south St.